

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01315

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, LT
SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

REFS: A. MASERU 0774
B. MASERU 0740

1. FOLLOWING, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IS BIO DATA ON MOOKI
MOLAPO AS WELL AS COMMENTS ON OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
HIM AT THE UN.

2. MOOKI VITUS MOLAPO, BORN IN LERIBE IN 1937, WAS RE-
APPOINTED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1976 AND SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY
UNTIL MARCH 20, 1978. HE SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN THAT POST
FROM 1971 TO 1974. MOLAPO WAS A TEACHER UNTIL HE ENTERED
GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN 1966 AS AN ASSISTANT INFORMATION
OFFICER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION IN MASERU. HE
ATTENDED TWO SEMINARS ON DIPLOMACY SPONSORED BY THE
CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR PEACE. EN ROUTE TO AN ASSIGNMENT IN
WASHINGTON AS COUNSELLOR OF LESOTHO'S TWO-MAN EMBASSY
(1967-1970), MOLAPO COMPLETED A SHORT COURSE AT THE
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
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THE WEST INDIES IN TRINIDAD. HE WAS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM 1969-1971.

3. MOLAPO WAS A MEMBER OF HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATIONS TO THE
22ND, 23RD, AND 24TH SESSIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND HAS REPRESENTED HIS COUNTRY AT A MEETING OF THE WORLD
HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN BOSTON IN 1969, THE TWO MEETINGS OF

THE WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST CONFERENCE IN MANILA AND TOKYO, AND AT MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN ADDIS ABABA IN 1970. IN SEPTEMBER 1976 HE WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE UN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

4. ALTHOUGH EARLY REPORTS OF MOLAPO DURING HIS FIRST TERM AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN 1971 DESCRIBED HIM AS "SOMEWHAT SHY AND INTROVERTED", USUN OFFICIALS IN CONTACT WITH HIM DURING HIS SECOND UN TOUR FOUND HIM TO BE "EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND OUTSPOKEN, CONGENIAL, INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE...WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD AMERICANS". IN NEW YORK MOLAPO WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF THE AFRICAN GROUP, AS MUCH FOR THE SMALL SIZE OF HIS NATION AS FOR HIS OWN LACK OF A FORCEFUL PERSONALITY. IN BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH THE US MISSION IN 1977 AND 1978, HOWEVER, US OFFICIALS FOUND MOLAPO TO BE DILIGENT, OPEN, AND EASY TO WORK WITH.

5. MOLAPO WAS OFTEN IN DISAGREEMENT WITH LESOTHO AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON MANARE. HE ENDEAVORED TO MAKE END-RUNS AND CONDUCT AS MUCH BILATERAL BUSINESS IN NEW YORK AS HE COULD, OFTEN DESCRIBING HIS DEMARCHES HERE AS HAVING BEEN INITIATED BY TELEPHONIC REQUESTS FROM PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN. MOLAPO NEVER HESITATED TO MAKE KNOWN BOTH HIS DISTASTE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND HIS GOOD RELATIONS (PERHAPS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED) WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. LEONARD

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MINISTER. LEONARD

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